

# The Whitewright Rose

"Showcasing Progress, Heritage, Community & Citizens"

Serving the Southern Grayson County and the Surrounding Texoma Area

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The City of Whitewright, Est. Circa 1878

VOL. 1 NO. 2

## Progress & Heritage Features



Artist Rendition of New Library  
Courtesy of the City of Whitewright; Used by Permission

### Library News

#### Online Catalog in the Works

From Library Reports, Verbatim

The Tocker Foundation has awarded the Whitewright Public Library \$10,200 for a new catalog system, Apollo by Biblionix. The funds will pay for the library's data to be imported into the new system, as well as five years of service.

The new system will allow the library's over 20,000 items to be browsed online by anyone via the Internet. Search results include cover art, title and author of the book, and will let browsers know if the item is checked out. Those interested in viewing the latest titles have the option of viewing a list of items added to the collection in the past two or four weeks.

Registered library users will be able to view items they currently have checked out, renew or reserve items, and update contact information, all from the convenience of home. Items can also be reserved based on author name, so you'll know whenever a new book is added to the collection by your favorite author(s). Email alerts can be sent three days in advance of an item's due date, as well as notifications when reserved items are ready for pickup, when items are overdue, etc.

For those without online access, the system will still provide better service than the system the library has been using for over a decade. By automating more of the work, this makes it easier for librarians to contact those not online regarding reserves, overdues, etc.

Library staff anticipates the online catalog will be available in approximately one to two months, depending upon when the transfer of data into the new program can be done as well as staff training time.

The library will publish more details once the catalog is online. You can also watch [www.whitewright.lib.tx.us](http://www.whitewright.lib.tx.us) for more details, or call the library if you have questions, 903-364-2955.

### W'Wright Weather Data

Watching weather signs and changes  
Staff Reports

A good resource site to visit on internet for weather, water and climate data is the National Weather Service Forecast Office out of Ft. Worth, Texas. They cover the north Texas area, including the Whitewright area. The Internet link is <http://www.srh.weather.gov/fwd/>.

The site is frequently updated for changing weather conditions, radar imagery, climate, and weather safety guidance and education. Latest warnings and statements include including hazardous weather outlook, flood watches and warning, tornado watches and warnings, air quality alert notices, grass fire dangers, storm reports, and civil emergency messages.

The Fire Dept. Uses pagers and radios for their communications. Sometimes if not enough firefighters respond to a call, citizens will hear the "weather" alert siren go off over city hall in short bursts. If there is a real emergency or weather warning, it will blast much longer; Citizens are advised to listen closely to their radios or television weather reports for accurate weather information,

### "Henrykin" joins as contributing writer.

With this edition, we proudly introduce Richard Henry as a contributing writer. His eloquent writer style fosters up old memories of yesteryear, and may encourage people to visit their local library or study their roots.

#### About the Author.

Richard Henry grew up in Ardmore, Oklahoma in the 1940's and currently resides in Allen, Texas with his wife, Carol of 44 wonderful years. His father served in the Army Air Corps and was stationed in the Pacific during WWII. During that time, Richard and his mother lived with her parents, and spent a lot of time in the family circled by lots of aunts, uncles and cousins. His pastimes include genealogy research and Old Time Radio, stating that "Genealogy, because I have always enjoyed hearing stories about my ancestors. Before passing on, my grandmother made an audio tape in the 1970s. She told about her childhood and growing up in Indian Territory in the late 1800's. I remember sitting around the table-top radio with my Mom and Grandparents listening to shows such as Fibber McGee and Molly, the Shad-ow, the Lone Ranger, Jack Benny, Amos and Andy, Inner Sanctum and many more. Of course, this was before television, computers and video games. What fond memories it brings back when I listen to one of the over 19,000 items in my radio collection." Writing about these fond memories is also one of Henry's past times, and we'd enjoy him taking us on his trip down "Foggy-Minded Memories Lane."

### Foggy-Minded Memory Lane

#### Kids Save Girl From Train Tracks

By Richard Henry

I was a little boy and it was Saturday afternoon. I was on my horse riding in the field when I heard someone crying for help. All I could see was a train in the distance. Then I saw a form on the tracks about 200 yards away. It was a little girl and she was crying. I whipped my horse and off we went at a gallop. I didn't know if I would be in time to save her. The train was coming fast. I reined my horse to a stop and I jumped down. The train whistle was blowing and getting closer. The girl was tied to the tracks. I quickly untied her and pulled her off the tracks just as the train rushed by. I got back on my horse and pulled her up behind me. We were riding off in the sunset when I felt a tap on my shoulder. I looked back and a man was saying, "Mister if you don't have another quarter for the horse, can my son have a turn?"



The author, Richard Henry, is pictured here as a child.  
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### Old Original W'Wright Establishments

The oldest establishment in the community, beside the city government itself and the United States Post Office, is the town newspaper, *The Whitewright Sun* and the *Volunteer Fire Department*.

*The Sun* was one of two newspapers that were operating in the early days. The *Sun* has seen its share of owners over the decades, with the most recent change being when Clara Pokey Combs died last year. The paper is now owned by local and out of town relatives, and managed by a staff of three.

Back issues of the *Whitewright Sun* are available on microfilm at the local library downtown.

The other early newspaper published in Whitewright in the early days was short-lived and was called *The Plow and Hammer*.

It's hard pickens to find a copy of *The Plow and Hammer*, however, The Texas/Dallas History & Archives, Dallas Public Library at 1515 Young St in Dallas, TX 75201, 214-670-1435, [http://dallaslibrary.org/CTX/newspapers\\_S-Z.htm](http://dallaslibrary.org/CTX/newspapers_S-Z.htm) Reports to have Select pages of the *WHITEWRIGHT Plow & Hammer* on reel with Terrell Texas Star for the editions of Aug. 3, 17, 31, 1889; Jan. 17, 25, 1890.

If one digs deep enough, they could find out that Abraham Lincoln's aunt is buried in Whitewright, and our local cemeteries are filled with rich heritage.

Additional research on our town and good Internet reading sources include:

Grayson History  
[http://www.reynoldsrecords.com/texas/grayson\\_history.html](http://www.reynoldsrecords.com/texas/grayson_history.html)

Area History  
<http://www.bellstexas.com/oldbells/jamesisbell.html>

The local volunteer Whitewright Fire Department was established in 1888 and is still in existence today. The town has burned twice, once in the 1880s, and a great conflagration in 1911 that destroyed over four dozen business and homes.

Rising from the ashes and with a population still lettering of just under 2000 for over a century, most folks around these parts don't know that thousands vehicles pass through the "four-way-stop" of Highways 11, 69 and 160 - the community's main intersection - every week. The city has managed to retain its small town aura and uniqueness for over one hundred years.

Small changes in business, economy and community are more noticeable in a small town, and the street corners and back alleys could tell quite a few tales of old and new if they could talk.

### Good Eats

Staff Reports

With a steady population of roughly 2000, the city has managed to retain it's small town aura and uniqueness for over one hundred years.

The edges of the downtown sidewalks are unusually tall, reflecting a time when horses and buggies were tethered to hitching posts so they couldn't jump up on the sidewalks. A few concrete or metal hitching posts with tie rings are still scattered on the edges of a few front lawns throughout town.

The city of Whitewright has seen it's share of restaurants come and go, as with any community. Yet there are, in fact, some food establishments that have been around for quite a while.

The Dairy Queen on Highway 11 has been in business for many many years, although it has changed ownership a few times. The local filling station, an Exxon, also has an attached restaurant, Corby's Grill. The successful business is owned by Tammi and Larry Francis, who are native Whitewright citizens. The couple also own four other 1st Quick Check convenience store locations located in the north Texas area.

CJ's Café in downtown Whitewright is an old mom-and-pop-style restaurant, serving up your favorite home-style breakfast or lunch. They must be doing something right, 'cause on most Sunday mornings a whole slew of motorcycles line up along the parking spots downtown. Young people and grayed haired patrons of all types can be seen through the front window, chowing down on the fresh-off-the grill bacon and eggs or daily specials, ranging from chicken fried steak to burgers or roast beef, or homemade pancakes from scratch.

Casa Vieja opened her doors in late June '07, to a hearty crowd yearning for some good authentic Tex-Mex cuisine. It is owned by Rolando Cruz, and the family also has a location in Blue Ridge. On the first day of operations, one resident said, "You gotta go try 'em out. Their food is wonderful, their salsa is really good, and their iced tea is to great!" They've added some American dishes to their menu, in addition to take out and catering services.

The Bible belt still buckles pretty strongly in this town, sporting a dozen or so churches throughout the community. The saloons of centuries past have long been shut down, yet despite that, the Dusty Saddle has managed to maintain its services to a wandering few through the years near the outskirts of town.

Beyond that, the fire department has been known to grill up a good burger or dog now and then, and there's the concession stands grill at the local Whitewright Youth Baseball field that serves up nice French fries and nachos along with other items during the spring playing season.

Pettit's Grocery and Market is the iconic food source in town for shopping, supplemented by some staple goods and milk at the local Family Dollar or Dollar General Stores. KC Foods is a another grocery store that's a skip and a holler down the road toward Tom Bean or Bells. And if you choose to venture out further, there's a grill at Harlow's gas station at Hwy 121 and Hwy 160, or for good eats you could choose the Subway, Sonic, Milano's Italian Food, or Catfish places in Bells. Bon appetite!



Staff Photo

Parts of the local grainery, with its enticing archaic structures, is still in use today, for grain, still photography, and even a movie short now and then.

### The Odeum Theater

Open 7 Days A Week!  
Movie Schedule  
903-364-9535

Movie Trivia: Which W'Wright citizen has A first cousin in a role Of the upcoming horror Flick, "The Happening"? With Mark Wahlberg? Answer next week.

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